



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Health Services
Director of Internal Services

At its meeting held June 28, 2005, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“The goal of better and more efficient service is what led the Board of Supervisors in 1972 to merge four Departments into a new Department of Health Services.

“Now, 33 years later, the environment has changed. Health Services now operates in a very different world. Technology, financing, demographics, service needs and health challenges are all vastly different. Because of these differences today, it appears that separating Public Health from Personal Health is the best way to assure better and more efficient service.

“The Chief Administrative Officer’s June 9, 2005 report more specifically describes the reasons why. Among other reasons, once separated each department will be able to focus more intently on what the different missions are. Public Health’s mission will be to protect and improve the health of all 10 million County residents. Personal Health’s mission will be to care for medically indigent people.

“This is a big organizational change. It needs to be done right. Three things are essential. First, the reorganization needs to be superbly planned and executed to properly distribute existing staff and other resources and to transition smoothly from the old to the new organization, so that services are improved, not disrupted.

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“Secondly, after the reorganization, the directors and staff of Public Health and Personal Health must routinely work closely together to improve and coordinate services, especially to people they serve in common. This coordination mechanism should also include Mental Health and other affected departments, where appropriate.

“Finally, the separation must be done with no increase in net County cost.”

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director of Public Health, Department of Health Services, responded to questions posed by the Board. Steven Gallegos, representing Public Health Policy Advocates, Robert Donin representing Tri-Pac Health and Wellness Advocacy, Dr. Lester Breslow, Michael T. Pfeiffer and other interested persons addressed the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Molina being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Approved in concept, the separation of the Department of Health Services into a Department of Public Health and a Department of Personal Health, with no increase in net County cost;
2. Set October 18, 2005 as a preliminary target date to formalize the separation discussions;
3. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer, working with the County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller, the Directors of Health Services, Public Health, and Internal Services, and the Director of Personnel to develop a detailed implementation plan and timetable with the plan to include the following:
 - The programs to be transferred to the new Public Health Department, consistent with its mission;
 - New proposed organization charts and classification plans;

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- The related budgetary and other resources to be distributed, including an equitable division of support staff, space, and other assets currently shared by public health and personal health;
 - Milestones and action steps required to transition from the existing to the new organization;
 - Assigned responsibilities and target dates for each action;
 - A proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Directors of Personal Health, Public Health, and Mental Health to assure a smooth transition and ongoing collaboration on prevention initiatives;
4. Instructed County Counsel and the Director of Personnel to concurrently draft the necessary County Code amendments; and
 5. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer, with County Counsel and the Director of Personnel, to report back to the Board in 45 days with a progress report and proposed County Code amendments.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Auditor-Controller
Director of Public Health
Director of Internal Services